

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 and 16-25 are pending, of which claims 1-15 and 21-24 have been withdrawn. New claim 25 has been added. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 16, 17, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Trent, Jr. et al. (US 2004/0252109). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trent, Jr. et al. in view of Charlton (US 5,929,774). Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trent, Jr. et al. in view of Nakada et al. (US 3,902,398).

Applicants note that Trent, Jr. et al. is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), which requires that "the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent"

Trent, Jr. et al. was published on December 16, 2004, and claims priority from provisional patent application no. 60/372,009, filed on April 11, 2002. The present application is a divisional of U.S. patent application no. 09/813,921, filed on March 20, 2001, which is before the publication date (December 16, 2004) and the priority date (April 11, 2002) of Trent, Jr. et al.

In view of the foregoing, claims 16-20 are novel and patentable over the cited references. New claim 25 depends from claim 16 and is submitted to be allowable as well.

Withdrawn claims 1-5 and 21-24 depend from claim 16, and are thus also allowable. Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-5 and 21-24 be reinstated and allowed in the present application.

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Amdt. dated September 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 23, 2005

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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